In search of the
wild college id

By Bob Wasserman

One of the things that most fascinates me is the clause on the ad-
versary page of many mixers hoping to "id" required. I'm
today's prominent psychologists, as well as myself, are looking deep-
into the study of the College id.

According to Stern, Freud, the id is the aggressive, animalistic
nature within man. This nature often manifests itself in the sex drive.
Thus, perhaps these parties want to assure that each participant
brings the proper attitude to the jungle of the college mixer scene.

Freudian theory also refers to man's superego as the counterpart of
the id. While many psychologists have no doubt super-ego exists,
Freud implies that his superego is rather the social nature or conscience
of man. Presumably party planners want little of this side of a per-
sonality, preferring the wild, uncontrolled nature to rule.

Even if many of the typical college party-goers require a dominant
id, it is not the usual state of things in everyday life. Nor-
really, the id and the superego in the same relationship of primacy
is quite uncommon. This process is

something else

somewhat like the classic confrontation often seen in cartoons where
a little angel and a little devil pop out of the poor fellow's head and at-
tempt to convince him of their points of view.

This comical situation can be used to illustrate the third part of
Freud's theorized psyche, the ego. The ego is a type of buffer zone
between the two fighting natures — it is the little guy in the middle of
the angel-devil tussle.

Freud also speaks of a broader pair of characteristics, those of Eros
and Thanatos. Life is a battle, a struggle, a fight for existence. While
success at college may be a life-or-death situation for some — it is the case that the private psychologist's study of
minds, it is a safe bet that college parties will always feature the
aggressive energy of the id. Whether this Greek connection implies the
Oedipus complex affects Oedipus, the hero of a Greek tragedy by Sophocles. It is uncertain
whether these are associated with words. Indeed, it is easy to discover a partyer's state of
mind by his immediate reaction to such questions as "danced?"
or "drank?", or even "my place?".

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Past UAPs lacked power

By Mark James

Editor's note: This column is the
first in a series examining student
government at MIT and its future.
Today: different strategies for dif-
ferent UAPs.

Nearly a month from now, the
students of MIT, or more accu-
ately, about four of them, will
elect a new student body
president.

Whoever they choose, the
new administration will face the
same problems faced by student
government for years: lack of real
power, in-

fighting among student politicians, and overwhelming apathy.
Each UAP has tried his own
solutions. Steve Wallmann '75
tried to get as much out of the
machinery of his office as possi-
ble. He wanted to change the UA constitution to reflect In-

somma, the form of student
government that existed before the 1975 "fights of trouble."
The Institute Committee
consisted of chairmen of the largest
and most powerful student groups,
put together to coor-
dinate students' activities. To Wallmann and many others, this plan seemed much
more practical than the General
Assembly — an enormous legisla-
tive body that had met in
several years. Others felt that
"supercommittee" did not best repre-
sent the interests of students. For
whatever reason, the plan did not
get enough votes to be approved.
Wallmann was succeeded by Lee
Allen '76, who was soon plagued
by lack of communications with his
vice-president. In one of the

perspectives

than most bizarre incidents in the his-
tory of the UA, Allen announced that UAP Steve Shagoury
had resigned, to the surprise of
Shadow, Kevin Miller '76 was
appointed to replace him.
Shagoury actually did resign shortly afterward. Otherwise,
Allen's term was relatively un-
eventful, although he too wanted
to change the constitution. He
proposed that the General As-
ssembly be replaced by a much
smaller Executive Committee,
a scheme that seemed more de-
corative of Wallmann's ideas, and also more workable than the
still dead GA. Unfortunately, this
plan never came to a vote.

A wave of students opposed to
the Taiwan inertial guidance program helped elect Phil Moore '77 to follow Allen. The activist
Mount tried to use the UA for
more overt political action and
called the General Assembly to-
gether for the first time in many
years. The new GA was crippled
by its inability to field a quorum
of delegations and made few sig-
nificant decisions besides approv-
ing LSC's monopoly on major
 campus films.
The 1977 election saw three
UAP-UAP teams that were
almost indistinguishable to most
voters go up against Peter Berkeley and Nancy Hurlie. Berkeley's pro-
mises were different: leaves on the
trees, a disco on campus, and
places to sit down. What wasn't
clear then was that his methods
were also different. He preferred
to shun the mechanism of govern-
ment entirely, instead hoping to
deal directly with individuals to
achieve his goals. Berkner's most
controversial technique is acting
without the cooperation of the
established student activity and
political leaders who run LSC,
TCA, SCC, IFC, Döner, and
other such groups.

(please turn to page 3)